

Case 3209

Lesteva* Latreille, 1797 and *Anthophagus* Gravenhorst, 1802 (Insecta, Coleoptera): proposed designation of *L. punctulata* Latreille, 1804 as the type species of *Lesteva

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Abstract. The purpose of this application under Article 70.2 of the Code is to conserve the widespread usage of the generic names *Lesteva* Latreille, 1797 and *Anthophagus* Gravenhorst, 1802 for two groups of Palaearctic rove beetles (family STAPHYLINIDAE) by designating *Lesteva punctulata* Latreille, 1804 as the type species of *Lesteva*. Species of *Lesteva* and *Anthophagus* have a Holarctic and Oriental distribution and are usually found in wet habitats.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Coleoptera; STAPHYLINIDAE; *Lesteva*; *Anthophagus*; *Staphylinus alpinus*; *Lesteva punctulata*; rove beetles; Holarctic; Oriental.

1. The name *Lesteva* Latreille, 1797 (p. 75) (family STAPHYLINIDAE) was first published with a few distinguishing characters, but without any included species. Although the date of publication of this name has long been cited as 1796, it was probably published on 13 January 1797 (see Evenhuis, 1997, p. 437). Latreille (1802, p. 129) briefly characterized the genus again with additional characters and included one species, *Carabus abbreviatus* Fabricius, 1779 (p. 263), with the statement 'Gen. Lestève; *lesteva*. (G. *Antophagus* [= *Anthophagus*]. Graven. [= Gravenhorst]) Exemple. *Carabus abbreviatus*. F.' As *C. abbreviatus* was the only species expressly included by name, it is the type species of *Lesteva* by subsequent monotypy (Article 69.3 of the Code).

2. Latreille (1804, pp. 286, 366–369) redescribed *Lesteva*, and listed *Anthophagus* Gravenhorst, 1802 (p. 120) as a synonym, included the nominal species listed in *Anthophagus* by Gravenhorst (among them *Staphylinus alpinus* Fabricius, 1793, p. 526), and added more including *Lesteva punctulata* Latreille, 1804 (p. 369). Of these, only four (including *L. punctulata*) remain in *Lesteva* (see Herman, 2001).

3. In the paragraph following the original description of *Lesteva punctulata*, Latreille (1804, p. 369) wrote 'C'est d'après cette espèce que j'avois formé ce genre [i.e. *Lesteva*]'. This statement was accepted as the type species designation for *Lesteva* by Tottenham (1949, p. 358), but not by Blackwelder (1952, p. 218; see para. 4. below).

4. Later Latreille (1810, p. 182) again characterized *Lesteva* and (p. 427) listed two names, *Staphylinus alpinus* Fabricius, 1793 and *Carabus dimidiatus* Panzer, 1795. Citing Latreille's (1810) publication, Blackwelder (1952, p. 218) regarded *Staphylinus alpinus* Fabricius, 1793 as the type of *Lesteva* Latreille, 1797, although aware that Thomson (1859, p. 48) had already fixed this species as the type of *Anthophagus*.

5. *Carabus abbreviatus* Fabricius (the type of *Lesteva* Latreille, 1797 by subsequent monotypy, see para. 1 above) is currently assigned to *Anthophagus* Gravenhorst. If this species were accepted as the type of *Lesteva*, the name *Anthophagus* would be lost as a junior subjective synonym of *Lesteva*, and *Lesteva* would become the valid name for the taxon currently called *Anthophagus* (Herman, 2001, p. 241). Consequently, a new name would be required for the genus currently called *Lesteva*. There would be a similar result if *Staphylinus alpinus* Fabricius, 1793, the type species of *Anthophagus* Gravenhorst, were accepted as the type species of *Lesteva* (see para. 4 above). The next available name for *Lesteva* auctt. is *Tevales* Casey, 1894, a rarely used name proposed for a North American species (see Casey, 1894, pp. 398–399; Herman, 2001, p. 312).

6. *Lesteva* and *Anthophagus*, with 97 and 36 species respectively, are well known, largely European genera that have each been abundantly cited as separate taxa (Herman, 2001, pp. 241–266, 309–333). In accordance with Article 70.2 of the Code, I propose that *L. punctulata* should be designated as the type species of *Lesteva* Latreille, 1797, in accord with Latreille's own (1804) designation, thereby maintaining *Lesteva* and *Anthophagus* in their widespread current usage. For a comprehensive list of usage, which is too long to publish here, see Herman (2001, pp. 241–266, 309–333).

7. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to set aside all previous fixations of type species for the nominal genus *Lesteva* Latreille, 1797 and to designate *Lesteva punctulata* Latreille, 1804 as the type species;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the following names:
 - (a) *Lesteva* Latreille, 1797 (gender: feminine), type species by designation in (1) above *Lesteva punctulata* Latreille, 1804;
 - (b) *Anthophagus* Gravenhorst, 1802 (gender: masculine), type species by subsequent designation by Thomson (1859) *Staphylinus alpinus* Fabricius, 1793;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the names:
 - (a) *punctulata* Latreille, 1804, as published in the binomen *Lesteva punctulata* (specific name of the type species of *Lesteva* Latreille, 1797);
 - (b) *alpinus* Fabricius, 1793, as published in the binomen *Staphylinus alpinus* Fabricius, 1793 (specific name of the type species of *Anthophagus* Gravenhorst, 1802).

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